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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,594	08/29/2001	Taminori Tomita	ASA-1029	5019
24956	7590	08/05/2005	EXAMINER	
MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C. 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 370 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			DAVIS, ZACHARY A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2137	
DATE MAILED: 08/05/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/940,594	TOMITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zachary A. Davis	2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 and 15-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-12 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20050525.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. An amendment was filed on 25 May 2005. Claims 1-12 have been amended. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled. New Claims 15-17 have been added. Claims 1-12 and 15-17 are currently pending in the present application.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 25 May 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In reference to Claims 1-12, and specifically in reference to independent Claims 1 and 7, Applicant argues that the claims are not anticipated by Brown et al, US Patent 6671805. Specifically, Applicant argues that Brown does not teach displaying the content of partial data and the detected range of the partial data on the same screen. However, the Examiner does not believe there is a distinction drawn between the content of the partial data and the range of the partial data; the Examiner notes that Applicant defines detecting the range as detecting what data is included in the signature

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(page 3, lines 21-27 of the present specification), and therefore display of the content of the partial data and the range of the partial data are not distinct.

Further, in reference to Claims 4, 5, 10, and 11, Applicant argues that Brown does not disclose how the information regarding the digital signature is displayed on a screen. The Examiner respectfully disagrees, noting that Brown does indeed disclose several ways in which information regarding a signature is displayed (see column 14, lines 46-62, where various examples of “a visual indication of the signer’s digital signature … in conjunction with the display of the document” are given). Brown further discloses several ways in which the area over which the signature is to be applied can be delimited (see column 12, lines 56-67, where the access-restricted portions, which are not part of the to-be-signed portion, are masked).

Therefore, for the reasons detailed above, the Examiner maintains the rejection as set forth below.

Specification

4. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the specification does not provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation “the range of partial data is multiplexed according to a multiplex of partial data” in Claim 17. See below regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 17 recites the limitation "the range of said partial data is multiplexed according to a multiplex of said partial data". There is no description of multiplexing the partial data or the range of the partial data in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-12 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown et al, US Patent 6671805.

In reference to Claim 1, Brown discloses an apparatus including a means for inputting digital signature data (column 13, lines 22-27; column 8, line 57-column 9, line 30), means for detecting the range of a part of data that is signed (column 8, lines 35-47), and a means for displaying the content of the detected data and the detected range of the data (Figure 2, Display Device 208; column 14, lines 46-49).

In reference to Claims 2 and 3, Brown further discloses analyzing information on the digital signature (see column 14, lines 53-57), which describes the signer (see column 14, lines 18-36), and displaying the result of the analysis (column 14, lines 46-62).

In reference to Claims 4 and 5, Brown further discloses that the content of the part of the data that is signed is displayed (column 11, line 65-column 12, line 13; column 13, lines 13-21; column 14, lines 46-62) and that the result of the analysis is displayed distinctly from the content (column 14, lines 46-62, noting especially that the ASCII representation of the signature can be displayed, lines 57-58; see also Figure 4D).

In reference to Claim 6, Brown further discloses that the signature is described in XML (column 7, lines 39-45; column 14, lines 11-17).

In reference to Claim 15, Brown further discloses a frame surrounding the content of the data (see column 12, lines 56-67, where areas not part of the to-be-signed portion are masked).

In reference to Claims 16 and 17, Brown further discloses a plurality of data portions to which signatures are applied (column 8, lines 43-45) and that the content and range of the plurality of data portions are displayed (column 14, lines 46-62).

Claims 7-12 are directed to a software implementation of the apparatus of Claims 1-6, and are rejected by a similar rationale.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary A. Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-3870. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:30-6:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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E. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER